GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:35
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2003
PRIME MINISTER`S RURAL COMMUNICATION SCHEME
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;RAMJI LAL SUMAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time bound scheme is being implemented under the 'Prime Minister's Rural Communication Scheme' to provide telephone connections in the villages;

(b) if so, the outline of the scheme;

(c) the time-frame laid down for providing telephone connections in all the villages of the country; and

(d) the number of villages where telephone service has already commenced upto December, 2002, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OFTHE LOK SABHA IN RESPECTOF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARREI QUESTION NO. 35 FOR 19TH FEBRUARY, 2003 REGARDING PRIME MINISTER'S RURAL COMMUNICATION SCHEME.

(a) & (b): No, Sir. There is no such scheme as the "Prime Minister's Rural Communication Scheme".

(c) & (d): One of the objectives of the NTP-1999 wasto achieve telecom coverage of all the revenue villages as per 1991 census by 2002. But due to security reasons in North Eastern States and Jammu & Kashmir and financing of satellite based telephones and poor performance by Private Basic Service Operators this could not be achieved. All the villages except those which have to be provided through satellite are expected to be covered by the close of 2003. State-wise details of number of villages where service has already commenced upto December, 2002 are given in Annexure- I & II.

ANNEXURE-I

STATE-WISE STATUS OF VPTs AS ON 31-12-2002(BSNL)

Sl. No.	State	Total No. of Villages	Total No. of VPTs Provided as on 31-12-2002
1	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	201	197
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	29460	23419
3	ASSAM	24685	17691
4	BIHAR	41077	38370
5	JHARKHAND	31703	26270
6	GUJARAT	18125	11214
7	HARYANA	#6850	6811
8	HIMACHAL PRADESH	16925	16585
9	JAMMU & KASHMIR	6764	4094
10	KARNATAKA	27066	27060
11	KERALA	1468	1468
12	MADHYA PRADESH	51806	37597
13	CHHATISGARH	19720	14633
14	MAHARASHTRA	42467	31541
15	NORTH-EAST-I		
Meghalaya		5555	1633
Mizoram		708	603
Tripura		862	748
16	NORTH-EAST-II		
Arunachal Pradesh		3389	711
Manipur		2439	751
Nagaland		1192	803
17	ORISSA	46989	40314
18	PUNJAB	12687	12687

19	RAJASTHAN	39483		23858
20	TAMILNADU	17899		17899
21	UTTAR PRADESH	103396		97123
22	UTTARANCHAL	15610		11596
23	WEST BENGAL	38347		37369
24	SIKKIM	427		374
25	DELHI	191		191
Total		607491	503610	

39 VILLAGES IN HARYANA ARE UNINHABITED

ANNEXURE-II

VILLAGE PUBLIC TELEPHONES (VPTs) BY PRIVATE LICENSEE AS ON 31-12-2002

LICENSEE AND LICENSED CIRCLE/STATE	NO. OF VPTs PROVIDED AS ON 31-12-2002
M/s Tata Teleservices(Andhra Pradesh)	1314
M/s Reliance Telecom(Gujarat)	2894
M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.(Punjab)	734+
M/s Hughes Telecom(India) Ltd. (Maharashtra)	1140
M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.(Madhya Pradesh)	348
M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.(Rajasthan)	693
TOTAL	7123

+All Villages in Punjab have been provided as replacement